

New name for *Estrilda jamesoni benguellensis* Delacour

by MELVIN A. TRAYLOR

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In his 1943 revision of the Estrildinae, Delacour (1943, Zoologica, 28: 84) united the genera *Lagonosticta* and *Estrilda* and in so doing created a number of secondary homonyms. For one of these, *Estrilda jamesoni ansorgei* (*Lagonosticta rhodopareia ansorgei* Neumann, 1908, *Bul. Brit. Orn. Club*, 21: 58) preoccupied by *Estrilda shelleyi ansorgei* (*Pytelia ansorgei* Hartert, 1899, *Bul. Brit. Orn. Club*, 10: 26), he proposed the name *Estrilda jamesoni benguellensis*. Unfortunately this name is preoccupied by *Estrilda paludicola benguellensis* Neumann, 1908, *Bul. Brit. Orn. Club*, 21: 96. I, therefore, propose as a new name for *Estrilda jamesoni benguellensis* Delacour:

Estrilda jamesoni kabisombo nom. nov.

The name *kabisombo* is taken from the type locality of the race, Kabisombo River, Huila, Angola.

Notes on African species of *Turdus*

by C. M. N. WHITE

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1. *Inter-relationships in the *Turdus olivaceus*, *abyssinicus*, *pelios* complex.*

There has been considerable fluctuation of opinion about the inter-relationships of these thrushes, the number of species to be recognised, and where to attach some of the named geographical forms. Chapin (1953) proposed to arrange them in two species, *olivaceus* including *pelios*, and *abyssinicus*. The latter was regarded as comprising the montane thrushes of tropical East Africa. It appears that in fact one is faced with a group of very closely related birds which could be regarded as forming a single species but for the fact that two quite distinct forms now occur in places together as good species. Some quite different forms are linked by intergrading series, whilst no intergradation is known between others.

The intergrading series run northwards from Angola and Northern Rhodesia extending to Senegal in the west and to Eritrea in the east. This series comprises about seven subspecies. They are certainly a graded clinal series becoming paler in the north of their range, and often by convergence closely resembling superficially *T. libonyanus*, and in places occupying a savanna niche where *libonyanus* does not occur. They cannot be regarded as conspecific with *libonyanus* for they have yellow rather than deep orange red bills, finely streaked instead of plain throats, and in the Katanga and Northern Rhodesia *libonyanus* and "*pelios*" *stormsi* live together. The *pelios* thrushes can likewise not be regarded as conspecific with *abyssinicus* for they also overlap in various places, sometimes with a partial ecological and altitudinal replacement, sometimes actually living side by side. The chief question is therefore whether *pelios* is to be treated as a species, or to be attached, as Chapin proposed, to *olivaceus*.

At first sight there seems to be good reason for this since *stormsi* and *olivaceus* are very similar, and the latter is in fact apparently a *stormsi* with more melanin, giving it a much more dusky olive upperside, a dusky olive breast contrasting with the rufous abdomen very sharply instead of